

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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/113 W

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R 041340Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5462
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, ETRD, LY, TS
SUBJECT: NEW LIBYAN-TUNISIAN COMMUNICATIONS ACCORD

REF: TUNIS 3061 (NOTAL)

1. IN A VISIT TO TRIPOLI APRIL 28 TO MAY 1, TUNISIAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS ABDELHAMID SASSI HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE ABD AL-ATI AL-UBAYDI AND LIBYAN COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY NURI AL-FAYTURI AL-MADANI.

2. VISIT ENDED WITH THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF A COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATION AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO TRIPOLI DAILY "AL-FAJR AL-JADID" THESE MINUTES COVERED A VARIETY OF PROPOSED PROJECTS INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

A. BRINGING THE PLANNED SFAX-TRIPOLI RAILWAY PROJECT TO THE "POINT OF EXECUTION" FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF TECHNICAL STUDIES;

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B. CONSTRUCTING A ROAD FROM RAS JAYDIR (AT BORDER) TO MEDININE, A DISTANCE OF 107 KM;

C. USING PASSENGER BUSES TO TRANSPORT PASSENGERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BEGINNING WITH A DAILY SERVICE OF ONE BUS FROM EACH SIDE;

D. COMPLETING STUDIES AND PREPARING NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A JOINT LAND PASSENGER AND FREIGHT TRANSPORT COMPANY;

E. EXCHANGING VISITS BETWEEN TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES;

F. HASTENING THE WORK ON THE UNDERGROUND CABLE PROJECT WHICH IS NOW IN ITS PLANNING STAGES;

G. EXAMINING POSSIBILITIES FOR TUNISIAN TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO WORK IN VARIOUS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATIONS IN LIBYA;

H. TRAINING UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF LIBYANS IN TUNISIAN INSTITUTES IN THE FIELDS OF POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS;

I. STUDYING THE POSSIBILITIES OF INCREASING AIR FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. ON RELATED MATTER, LIBYAN COMMUNICATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY CHAIRED A MEETING APRIL 26 OF VARIOUS LIBYAN AND TUNISIAN OFFICIALS TO PREPARE FOR THE FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS OF THE JOINT ARAB LIBYAN-TUNISIAN COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN TRIPOLI IN UNCLASSIFIED

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"COMING FEW MONTHS." JANA REPORTS THAT AMONG TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION ARE THREE RAILWAY PROJECTS: RAS JAYDIR-MEDININE; MEDININE-GABES; AND SFAX-GABES. TRIPOLI-BORDER SECTION WAS NOT MENTIONED, AND IS PRESUMABLY CONSIDERED UNILATERAL LIBYAN PROJECT.

4. LIKE LAST MONTH'S MEETING IN TUNIS OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, SASSI'S VISIT IS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TUNISIAN-LIBYAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETING OF LAST OCTOBER. DESPITE EXISTING POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, IT IS APPARENT THAT LIBYA AND TUNISIA ARE PREPARED TO USE INCREASED ECONOMIC CONTACTS TO MUTUAL ADVANTAGE. CARLE

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